

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sherman, Elijah, Farm

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number US 158☐ N/A not for publicationcity, town Berea☒ vicinitystate North Carolina code NCcounty Granvillecode 077zip code 27572

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>13</u>	_____ buildings
<u>2</u>	_____ sites
<u>4</u>	_____ structures
<u>1</u>	_____ objects
<u>20</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic & Architectural Resources of Granville County,
North CarolinaNumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

William S. Price, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

6-14-88

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwelling

Agriculture/Subsistence

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwelling

Agriculture/Subsistence

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: I-house

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

roof tin

other wood

stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 DESCRIPTION

Its weatherboards never touched by paint, its interior woodwork still in place, the center-hall plan I-house of Elijah and Georgianna Sherman is an intact and typical example of traditional nineteenth and early twentieth century Granville County architecture. Standing at the crest of a hill at the end of a long unpaved entrance lane, the house is the central element of a bright leaf tobacco era farmstead that includes an usually large and varied number of outbuildings and even a family cemetery.

The traditional plan of the house connects it with many other rural dwellings in the county, particularly those built late in the nineteenth and early in the twentieth century. It is two stories tall and one-room deep - the vernacular I-house form - its two downstairs and two upstairs rooms divided by a center hallway. A one-story full facade porch shades its three-bay front facade; cornice returns and rock and brick exterior end chimneys mark its gable ends; and a one-story ell - with a chimney stack rising between its kitchen and dining room and its own side porch - projects from its rear. The double doors leading into the hall from the front porch have two heavily molded panels each; the screen door connecting the ell porch to the rear of the hall is ornately finished with cut work and tiny spindles.

Inside, the house has a simple but not unadorned late nineteenth century finish. Hand-planed boards sheath its hallway and molded surrounds enframe its four-panel doors. Tall tongue-and-groove wainscoting adorns its downstairs bedroom and parlor. The mantels of these two rooms are almost identical, each with a lintel incised with a pointed-arch and posts adorned with two large diamonds, the diamonds of the east parlor mantel raised, those of the west bedroom inset. The remainder of the mantels in the house, those upstairs and in the dining room and kitchen, are of a plainer post and lintel type.

To the rear of the house ["A" on accompanying sketch map] are 17 outbuildings and the cemetery, all raised during the late nineteenth or early twentieth century and all contributing to the integrity of the farm. The 12 closest to the house - with the exception of two log cornercribs [J and L] and a concrete block top raised over a functioning stone well [G] - are built of frame. They are two garage/sheds [B and C], a privy [D], a frame smokehouse with closely set studs [H], a woodhouse [E], a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

cornerrib [K], a washhouse with a stone and brick chimney [I], a large stable with sweeping sheds [F] and a two-story packhouse [M]. The five outbuildings south of the packhouse - a strip house [O] and four tobacco barns [N, P, Q and S] - are all built of diamond-notched logs. A well-maintained family cemetery, separated from the barns by a modern metal fence, contains the graves of the farm's builders, Elijah and Georgianna Sherman, and some of their descendants.

2. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Period of Significance

late 1880s-1937

Significant Dates

late 1880s

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Elijah Sherman Farm is historically significant as an intact example of a late nineteenth/early twentieth century bright leaf tobacco farm and its farmhouse is architecturally significant as a little changed and typical, traditionally fashioned farmhouse. (See Historic Context 2 - Bright Leaf Tobacco and Rural Granville County, 1866-1937 - and associated Property Types 3 - Bright Leaf Era Farmhouses and Tenant Houses - and 6 - Outbuildings) Elijah (1852-1910) and Georgianna Sherman (1855-1902) built the house near the close of the nineteenth century, probably shortly after 1887, the year they purchased 163 acres of land on Cub, or Cuff, Creek for \$994.00 [Deed Book 41, Page 191]. Located on the crest of a hill, the house surveys its many outbuildings and its farmland, which slopes gently south to Cub Creek and east towards the county's major river, the Tar.

Striking in its vernacular simplicity, the unpainted weatherboarded dwelling is little changed since it was raised by the Shermans. Its I-house form is that of many hundreds of extant dwellings raised throughout the county, particularly late in the nineteenth and early in the twentieth centuries. Two stories tall and one-room deep, it is divided by a center hallway, bracketed by exterior end chimneys, fronted by a three-bay facade and a one-story porch, and backed by a one-story ell. Similar traditional county dwellings from the period include two nominated to the National Register, the Puckett Family Farm and the Eldon B. Tunstall Farm. Raised on a 163 acre farm that was midway in size between the 135 acre Puckett Farm and the 200 acre Tunstall Farm, the Shermans' house is midway between its contemporaries in size as well. While the Sherman House is a full two stories in height with a one-story ell, the Puckett House has an abbreviated second story and the Tunstall House has a full two-story ell. But for size, however, which likely had some connection to the wealth of their builders, all three farmhouses were formally cut from the same mold.

The three farmsteads are also connected in their retention of an unusually large and varied group of well-maintained, bright leaf era outbuildings. These outbuildings are critical to the Sherman Farm's status as an intact, evocative representative of the life of the majority of the county's late nineteenth and early twentieth residents - modest tobacco farmers. Its 17 contributing outbuildings include almost all of the necessary buildings typically located on local bright leaf farms, from those directly related to the harvest of tobacco - tobacco barns,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

a packhouse, a striphouse - to those related more generally to subsistence farming - corncribs and a stable - to those most directly connected with, and closest to, the farmhouse - the woodhouse, washhouse, smokehouse, well and privy. The latter two outbuildings are, unusually, still in use, for the house has never had any running water.

The property also even retains an immaculately maintained family cemetery. Among those buried in it are Elijah and Georgianna Sherman and their daughter and son-in-law, Lessie (1883-1963) and Burgess Adcock (1879-1950), the farm's second occupants. Still in the family, the farm is now owned and occupied by Herman Adcock - who inherited it from his father, Burgess, in 1950 [Will Book 30, Page 576] - and his wife, Willie. Although the Adcocks have used traditional methods to raise tobacco on the farm within the past fifty years, the farm's significance has a closing date of 1937 because it has not achieved exceptional significance within the past half century.

¹ Interview on June 19, 1986, with Willie Adcock.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Granville County Deeds. Granville County Courthouse. Oxford, N.C.

Granville County Wills, Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, N.C.

Interview with Willie Adcock, June 19, 1986 and October 21, 1987, wife of Herman Adcock, present owner.

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State historic preservation office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 25 acres

UTM References

A
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marvin A. Brown/Architectural Historian & Patricia Esperon/Historian

organization Granville County-Oxford Historic Survey date 11/30/87

street & number P.O. Box 1556(State Hist. Pres. Office) telephone 919-693-1491

city or town Oxford state N.C. zip code 27565

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 1

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM REFERENCES

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	699280	4022830
B	17	699440	4022770
C	17	699390	4022400
D	17	699340	4022500
E	17	699190	4022540
F	17	699230	4022420
G	17	699080	4022540
H	17	699080	4022660
I	17	699230	4022660

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at point A: 17 699280 4022830 on the USGS polygon, where the west side of a farm lane intersects with the south side of a farm lane - both lanes marked on the USGS map - continuing along the south side of the farm lane approximately 600 feet to point B: 17 699440 4022770 on the polygon, where the south side of the farm lane meets the tree line. Continuing in a straight line south, along the edge of the woods, approximately 1400 feet, to point C: 17 699390 4022400 on the polygon, where the tree line turns northwest. Continuing in a straight line northwest along the edge of the woods, approximately 500 feet to point D: 17 699340 4022500 on the polygon where the tree line turns west. Continuing in a straight line west, along the edge of the woods, approximately 300 feet to point E: 17 699190 4022540 on the polygon, where the tree line turns south. Continuing in a straight line south, along the edge of the woods, approximately 200 feet to point F: 17 699230 4022420 on the polygon where the tree line turns northwest. Continuing in a straight line northwest, along the edge of the woods, approximately 500 feet to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

point G: 17 699080 4022540 on the polygon, where the tree line meets a field line. Continuing in a straight line north along the field line, approximately 700 feet to point H: 17 699080 4022660 on the polygon, where the field line meets the tree line. Continuing in a straight line east, along the edge of the woods, approximately 600 feet to point I: 17 699230 4022660 on the polygon where the tree line meets the west side of the farm lane. Continuing north along the west side of the farm lane, approximately 450 feet to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Approximately 25 acres of the property that include the dwelling, outbuildings and cultivated fields, that have been a historic part of the property, maintain historic integrity, and convey the property's historic setting are being nominated for the National Register. Some of the acreage on the property has been excluded because it is now woodland and no longer contributes to the historical significance of the property as a farm.

The northern boundary from UTM points A to B includes the dwelling to its south and excludes property not owned by the owner to its north. The eastern boundary from UTM points B to C includes the dwelling to its west and excludes woodland to its east. The southern boundary from UTM points C to D, D to E, E to F, and F to G includes the dwelling to its north and excludes woodland to its south. The western boundary from UTM points G to H includes the dwelling to its east and excludes property not owned by the owner to its west. The northern boundary from UTM points H to I includes the dwelling to its south and excludes woodland to its north. The western boundary from UTM points I to A includes the fields to its east and excludes property not owned by the owner to its west.

Contributing Object

G - late 19th / early 20th Century
Stone - concrete wall

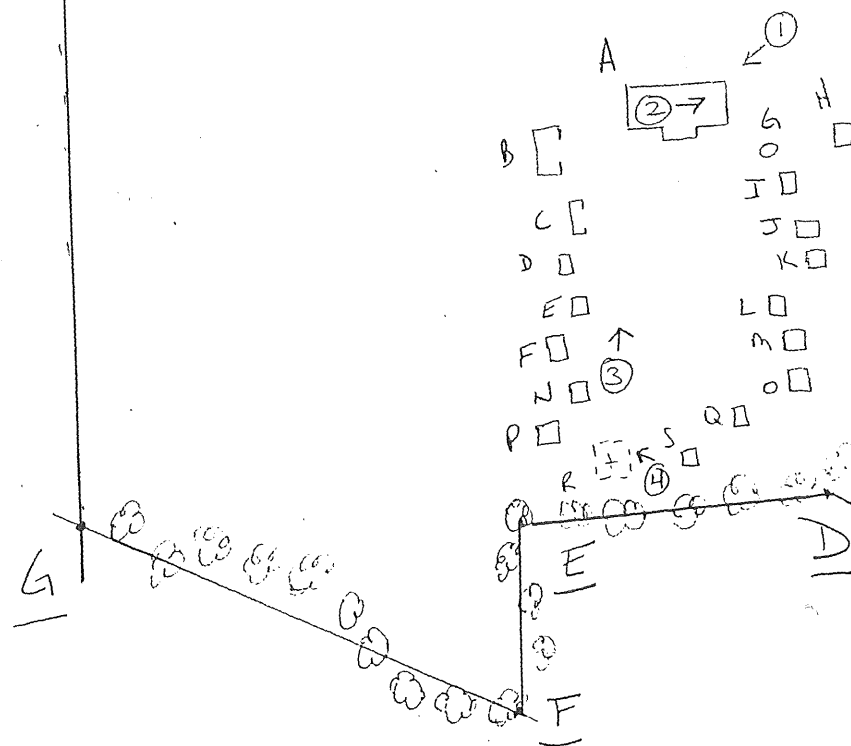
Contributing Site

R - late 19th / early 20th c. century
Cultivated fields

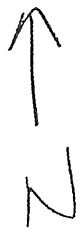
H

A

FIELDS



underlined
capital letters
represent the
LHM references
for the vertices
of the
polygon
drawn to
encompass
the property
on the
accompanying
USGS map.



Contributing Buildings

ELISAN SHERMAN FARM

Granville County, N.C.

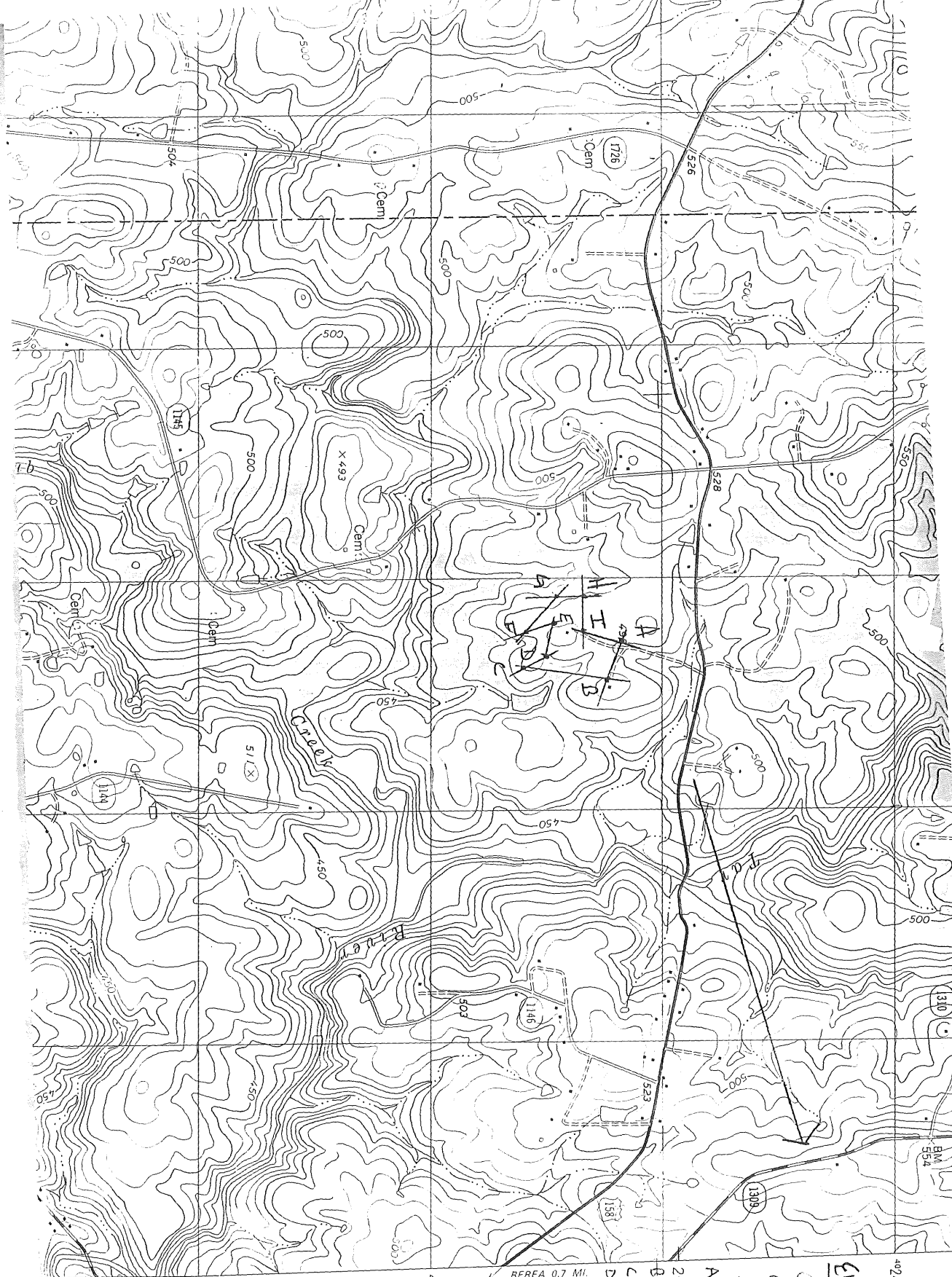
Approximately 25 acres

Approximate scale 1"=200'

Contributing Structures

E - late 19th / early 20th c frame woodhouse
J+L - late 19th / early 20th c frame log corner
K - late 19th / early 20th c frame corner

A - late 1880s
B - late 19th / early 20th c frame garage
C - late 19th / early 20th c frame garage
J - late 19th / early 20th c frame porch
F - late 19th / early 20th c frame stable
H - late 19th / early 20th c frame smokehouse
I - late 19th / early 20th c frame washhouse
M - late 19th / early 20th c frame pocket watch
N - late 19th / early 20th c log tobacco shed
O - late 19th / early 20th c log tobacco shed
P, Q, S - late 19th / early 20th c log tobacco shed



(BEREA)
5256 1 SW

BEREA 0.7 MI.
OXFORD 10 MI.

A	17	699280	4022835
B	17	699440	4022770
C	17	699390	4022400
D	17	699340	4022500
E	17	699190	4022540
F	17	699230	4022420
G	17	699080	4022540
H	17	699080	4022660
I	17	699230	4022660

Elijah Skarman Farm
Ocracoke County, N.C.
David M. Smith, N.C.
Scale 1:24,000

